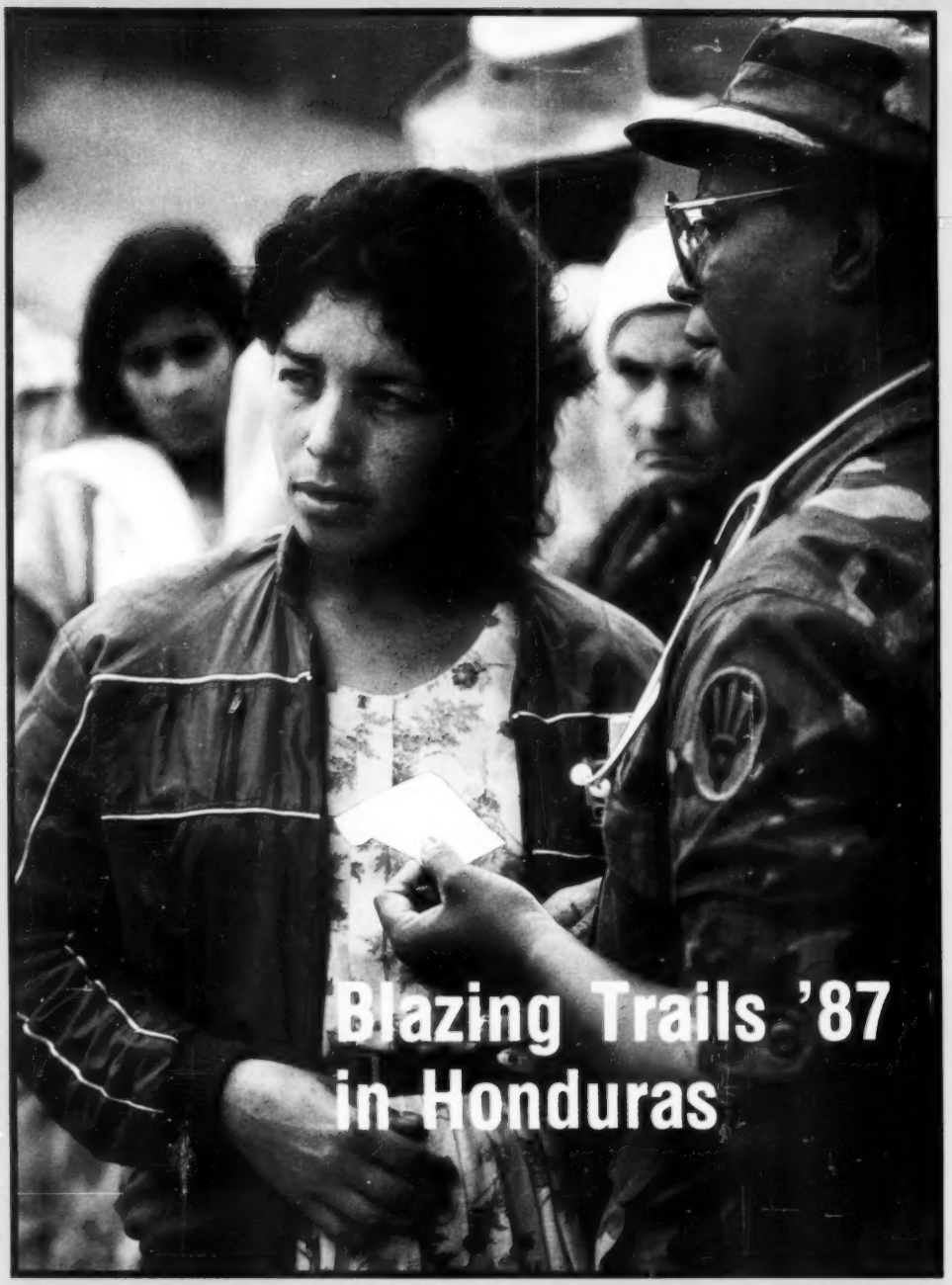
ARMY RESERVE

ARMY RESERVE MAGAZINE

THE SECOND ISSUE OF 1987



Blazing Trails '87 in Honduras

Happy Birthday, U.S. Army!

June 14, 1987, marks the U.S. Army's 212th birthday. Wherever soldiers gather on or near that date, be they members of the active or reserve components, the heritage they all share will be remembered and honored.

The Army was established by resolution of the Second Continental Congress on June 14, 1775. It was called the American Continental Army then.

How old is the Army Reserve? It is either older or younger than the U.S. Army, depending on how you define it.

The concept of the American citizen-soldier goes back to the earliest days of the colonies, before 1775 and the Revolution. During the early colonial period, local militias were all the colonists had — and all they needed — to defend themselves against Indian attack or other threats. In the French and Indian war, British "regulars" sent from England carried the brunt of the fighting, backed up by the citizen-soldiers.

In 1792, after the revolution and the establishment of the United States of America, the militia in each state became the "reserve component" of the Army. Because of the relationship of these militias to their state governments, they are strictly speaking the ancestors of today's Army National Guard.

A "Federal" Force

The first serious proposal for a federal "reserve" separate from the state militias was made in 1876 by Emory Upton, a Commandant of Cadets at West Point and a leading military thinker. The first official consideration of the concept was in 1899 by Elihu Root, the Secretary of War.

The first actual "Army Reserve," and the direct antecedent of today's Army Reserve, was created by Congress on April 23, 1908. It was the Medical Reserve Corps, and was created to overcome the chronic shortage of physicians which the Army experienced in wartime.

So, while the Reserve's own birthday is April 23, today's Army Reservists join their colleagues-in-arms throughout the U.S. Army on June 14 in celebrating their common heritage.

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FRONT COVER: In addition to building a much-needed farm-to-market road, Army Reservists training at Blazing Trails 87 in Honduras are providing medical and other forms of assistance to their Honduran neighbors. 1st Lt. Trinette Bell, 395th Combat Support Hospital, Gary, Ind., offers treatment to villagers. For more about Blazing Trails, see page 14.

BACK COVER: Central to the Blazing Trails 87 activity in Honduras are engineers, their heavy equipment and the road they are building. It's hot, dirty — and great training.

Army Reserve Photos by John Pinderhughes

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"The Secretary of Defense shall require the complete and current dissemination to all Reserves and the Public of information of interest to the Reserve Components."
Section 278, Title 10, U.S. Code.

How to Change Your Address for Army Reserve Magazine

Army Reserve Magazine is mailed to members of the U.S. Army Reserve who have valid addresses on the appropriate data base as of the publication date.

Members of Army Reserve units should make sure that their current address is entered by their unit on SIDPERS—USAR. Members of the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR), Active Guard/Reserve (AGR) or Individual Mobilization Augmentation (IMA) program should provide address corrections to their manager at the Army Reserve Personnel Center (ARPERCEN) at St. Louis, Mo.

Do not write or call the magazine editorial office. We can neither change addresses nor acknowledge requests to do so.

Distribution of *Army Reserve Magazine* to persons and agencies other than Army Reservists is strictly controlled. Requests from non-Reservists to receive the magazine, and changes of address for such subscriptions, should be made in writing to the editor.

Maintenance is a key element of readiness, and the Army Reserve's best maintenance people have been identified for honors in the 1986 Chief of Staff, Army, Award for Maintenance Excellence competition.

Coincidentally, all three USAR winners are First Army units. Two runner-up units are Fifth Army outfits; the third is from Sixth Army.

The awards were to be presented to unit representatives in May at the American Defense Preparedness Association convention in Washington, D.C.

The winners:

Heavy-density units (more than 1,000 items of equipment): Winner, 969th Maintenance Co., Horseheads, N.Y.; runner-up, 410th Evacuation Hospital, Topeka, Kan.

Intermediate-density units (701 to 1,000 items): Winner, 310th Field Hospital, Malone, N.Y.; runner-up, 163rd Ordnance Co., Santa Ana, Calif.

Light-density units (up to 700 items): Winner, 254th Supply Co., York, Pa.; runner-up, 172nd Transportation Co., Omaha, Neb.

Going OCONUS? Reservists training **outside of the United States** will receive orders only upon receipt of a negative test for HIV (Aids). Or you don't go. Period.

The test must be taken within one year at an approved DoD medical facility. To get the test, you must have orders, so plan ahead. Unit members should contact their units for assistance; IRR and other individual Reservists should be in touch with their ARPERCEN manager.

With every issue of *Army Reserve Magazine*, we document the plasticization of another piece of U.S. Army gear. Last time it was plastic bullets, now it's **plastic GI fuel cans**, now being tested. The new "Jerry can" is lighter and holds more (20 liters, about 5 1/2 gallons) than the classic metal 5-gallon version, but fits the same vehicle racks. Current testing will determine if it is more durable as well.

Missouri Reservists may benefit from a proposal to exempt $3,000 of service or military retirement pay from **state income tax**. That could mean as much as $180 a year in tax savings. The bill has passed the house of representatives but is not yet law. State senators say they are unsure of how the electorate feels about the issue.

The current state of **Soviet Military Power** is outlined in the 6th edition of the book with the same name, released by the Department of Defense in March. The 160-page compendium is available to publication account-holders through the AG Publications Center in Baltimore; personal copies are available for $7.50 from the U.S. Government Printing Office.

HIV Screening Starts for Reserve Unit Members

The full-scale testing program to screen members of Army Reserve units for the presence of the HIV (commonly called AIDS) virus started in May.

Army Reserve officials expect the screening of all unit members to take about two years. The blood testing is being performed by a contract laboratory.

The Reserve testing program follows the same pattern as the active component's program, and includes three parts:

1. *Education*: Reservists view the 20-minute film, "Nobody's Immune," which explains what AIDS is and how it spreads. The film is accompanied by a discussion of AIDS issues led by trained medical personnel.

2. *Testing*: Blood is drawn by the contractor for testing. This takes place at the unit location.

3. *Notification*: Currently, Reservists who test positive for the presence of the HIV virus are notified by a team which includes an Army Reserve Medical Corps officer. Then, another blood test is made, using a new blood sample, to confirm the results. Negative notifications will be made in accordance with local command procedures.

Some Reservists in Georgia and Florida will be tested using a slightly different procedure under an experimental program.

While most IRR and IMA Reservists are not being tested under the current program, the testing requirement does cover those scheduled to train outside the Continental United States (OCONUS) and those on orders to serve Special Active duty for Training (SADT) tours of 30 days or longer. Those categories total about 10,000 Reservists annually. Non-unit Reservists who require testing are generally screened at an Army medical facility. Army Reserve officials are still studying the possibility of testing all non-unit Reservists in the future.

The test detects the presence of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), which is the source of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). Army policy calls for active duty soldiers to be tested yearly and reserve components soldiers to be tested every two years.

Army policy regarding retention of Reservists who test positive for the presence of HIV but show no symptoms of illness "is still evolving," note Army Reserve officials. Under current Department of Defense guidelines, they are considered "not deployable." As such, they will not be retained in units which would deploy outside the USA upon mobilization, although they may serve in units which would not deploy. They will not be ordered to active duty for training (ADT) for longer than 29 days, or sent on duty outside the United States.

Reservists with AIDS symptoms are not authorized medical evaluation or treatment at government expense. Their retention and training status will be the same as any soldier with a serious health problem.

OCAR points of contact for the HIV testing program are Lt. Col. Chip Carroll, (202) 697-3965, or SFC Judy Moody, (202) 697-0805.

Recent changes in the Army's structure: The Army's Western Command (WESTCOM) at Fort Shafter, Hawaii, has been redesignated **U.S. Army, Pacific (USARPAC)**. At the same time, U.S. Army Japan (USARJ) — formerly a separate major command — became subordinate to USARPAC. The new four-star command also owns the 25th Infantry Division and the Army Reserve's IX Corps (Augmentation), among other units.

Army Rangers, Special Forces, psychological operations and civil affairs forces will join Navy and Air Force elements as part of the new **U.S. Special Operations Command**, established April 16. As a DOD unified command, the USSOC's primary mission is to prepare special operations forces for their assigned roles in general war and low-intensity conflict. It shares its headquarters with U.S. Readiness Command (REDCOM) at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla.; at a later date REDCOM will be disestablished and its missions passed to USSOC or other commands.

Army personnel now have a toll-free hotline for reporting suspected **espionage**. Dial (800) CALL SPY — that is, (800) 225-5779 — any time of the day or night and Army counterintelligence agents will follow up on your information. You don't need to give your name.

Expired ID Card? Better get it taken care of before the next time you try to use a post exchange facility. Exchange officials now confiscate expired cards or those which may be fraudulent.

An Army Reserve Glossary

The Army, including the Army Reserve, would be speechless without a myriad of acronyms. Several appear in this magazine. Most of them are known to many Reservists, but for those who are mystified, here is a glossary of the more frequently used acronyms:

AC — Active Component. The part of the Army that is on full-time active duty. There are two components of the Total Army: Active and Reserve. The reserve component includes the Army Reserve and the National Guard.

ADT — Active Duty for Training. This type of active duty is performed by any Reservist attending a school, counterpart training or other special training activities.

AGR — Active Guard/Reserve. This program brings Army Reservists on full-time active duty to perform duties in support of Reserve units and programs. The National Guard has a similar program, which is administered separately.

ARCOM — Army Reserve Command. One of 21 geographic major Army Reserve commands throughout the U.S. (plus one in Germany). Most (but not all) Army Reserve units are subordinate to an ARCOM, which is commanded by a Reserve major general.

ARPERCEN — Army Reserve Personnel Center in St. Louis, Mo. The nationwide administrative and personnel management center for the Army Reserve. It is the headquarters for AGR, IMA and IRR Reservists.

AR — Army Regulation.

AT — Annual Training. Active duty performed annually (usually for two or three weeks) by Army Reserve units and by IMA Reservists.

DA — Department of the Army. The headquarters of the Army, located primarily in the Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

FORSCOM — Forces Command. The major Army command headquartered at Fort MacPherson, Ga., which commands virtually all Army Reserve units in the U.S.

FY — Fiscal Year. This is the budgetary and training year for the Army. It starts on Oct. 1 and ends on Sept. 30.

IDT — Inactive Duty Training. Defined by AR 140-1. The most common example of IDT is weekend drill.

IMA — Individual Mobilization Augmentee. A Reservist who is assigned to an active component agency with which he or she would mobilize in case of emergency. IMA's serve at least two weeks of AT with their unit of assignment each year.

IRR — Individual Ready Reserve. A Reservist who does not belong to a Reserve unit or hold an IMA assignment. IRR soldiers do not normally drill but may serve tours of ADT. In case of a mobilization, IRR soldiers would receive orders from ARPERCEN.

MILPERCEN — Military Personnel Center. Located in Alexandria, Va., this agency is the active component counterpart to ARPERCEN, and has some responsibilities affecting the Army Reserve.

OCAR — Office of the Chief, Army Reserve. The agency on the DA staff in Washington which is responsible for Army Reserve budget and policy matters.

Other acronyms are defined the first time they are used in a story.

Constitutional Quotation

"The Constitution is the guide, which I never will abandon."

George Washington
Speech in Boston
July 28, 1795

The **39th Infantry Regiment** is seeking an honorary regimental colonel and sergeant major, as well as distinguished members for its rolls. The honorary colonel must be a retired colonel or general who served with the regiment. The honorary sergeant major must have been a sergeant first class or higher and also served with the 39th. Other former soldiers with the 39th may be eligible to become distinguished members. If you qualify, write Capt. Robert Link, 2/39th Infantry, Fort Dix, N.J. 08640.

The first official **Army Reserve museum** was sanctioned recently by the Army. It's the 81st ARCOM's "Wildcat Museum," being maintained at the unit's East Point, Ga., headquarters. The collection will document the World War I and II exploits of the Wildcat Division as well as the ARCOM's Reserve history.

Uniform news: The Army has approved an **optional white dress blouse** with pointed collar for wear by female soldiers with the Army green classic dress (enlisted only) and blue and white dress uniforms. It is an Air Force item and costs $15.95 at clothing sales stores. Army soldiers purchasing the blouse will receive a black tab for it. The Army's white blouse is no longer procured by the system.

Army Reserve unit members are the subject of a nationwide **survey** by the Reserve Component Training Technology Field Activity in Boise, Idaho. The questionnaires are now being distributed for the confidential survey which is designed to capture information "from the field" about Reserve training and related matters. The results could directly affect decisions on future training regulations and procedures.

A reminder to units which display the **Army Flag**: When the flag is not being carried, the battle streamers must be arranged so that the Yorktown 1781 streamer — the first to be added to the flag — is in the center, facing forward, and completely identifiable. AR 840-10 requires it, but not everyone has been making sure it happens.

Travel Discounts Available for Army Reservists

The Army's Military Traffic Management Command (MTMC) is frequently able to negotiate special fare arrangements for military personnel travelling in a non-duty status. Usually the special fares are limited to active duty personnel, but in three cases, discounts are available to Army Reservists and other reserve components personnel as well.

According to Jeanie Bell, MTMC passenger travel specialist, the programs vary greatly between the carriers but have two things in common:

To get the benefits, Reservists must have the red Reserve Components ID Card.

The discounted travel is only available for travel which is not reimbursable by the government. Reimbursable travel is subject to a different fare structure.

In each case, the carrier offers a discount off regular fares for eligible personnel. Sometimes other discounted fares offer an even better deal, so Reservists should check all the options before putting down their cash.

Here are the transportation deals available to Reservists:

USAIR—A military discount fare is available for Reservists when traveling to or from inactive duty training (IDT).

Northwest Airlines—A discounted fare is available for Reservists on Active Duty for Training (ADT) orders and for dependents accompanying a Reservist to and from ADT.

Greyhound—Special rates on 15-day and 30-day Ameripasses are available for Reservists in non-drill status, which includes Individual Mobilization Augmentees (IMA) and Individual Ready Reservists (IRR). The special rates are available for personal travel for eligible Reservists and their families.

VA Insurance Hoax Luring Vietnam Vets

A GI insurance dividend hoax aimed at veterans for more than 25 years is again plaguing the Veterans Administration, but this time with a new target — the Vietnam-era veteran.

The VA reports it is getting nearly 15,000 applications a week at its Philadelphia insurance center for a non-existent dividend, and many of the letters are from Vietnam-era veterans.

"The World War II veteran has been the principal victim of the hoax since the early 1960s," said Robert W. Carey, director of the center. "We've been telling them for years that despite what a bogus mimeographed flyer says, the VA does not pay dividends on lapsed National Service Life Insurance policies. Now we have a new generation to contend with."

The mysterious applications promise dividends "whether or not the insurance is still carried" and say that payments for as much as several hundred dollars are due. The announcements attribute the bogus dividend to recent Congressional legislation.

"There has been no such legislation," Carey said, "and there is none pending. I have no idea how these forms started, but they've been with us for years."

The phony applications have even been published in well-meaning but misguided publications, the VA says.

Army Reservists are being permitted what is being called a "one move exception" to the requirement for **panographic X-rays** in dental health records before soldiers travel on orders. The "exception" permits movement to a site where the X-rays can be obtained. Reserve troop units should have the records in their files by now; IRR soldiers have until Oct. 1, 1989 to comply.

The Army has announced plans to establish **Special Forces** as a separate career branch. Although Special Forces has existed since 1952, it has not been a managed career field within the Army's structure. ARPERCEN anticipates having the management structure for Army Reservists in place by October, which coincides with the active component's implementation.

Tax Law Changes May Reduce Deductions For Army Reservists

Changes in Federal income tax law effective in 1987 have reduced the ability of Reservists to deduct unreimbursed travel and uniform maintenance expenses.

The new law limits miscellaneous business expense deductions to those that exceed two percent of a taxpayer's adjusted gross income. For Reservists, this category now includes:

Unreimbursed travel expenses (transportation, lodging and meals).

Subscriptions and dues to professional organizations.

Unreimbursed uniform upkeep.

The new two-percent rule means that, for example, a taxpaying Reservist with an adjusted gross income of $30,000 can only deduct expenses which exceed $600.

In addition, only 80 percent of unreimbursed meal expenses may be included when calculating the miscellaneous deductions.

New W-4 Required

The law also requires filing of a new W-4 or W-4A withholding form by Oct. 1, 1987. A new form needs to be filed with each employer, including the Army Reserve.

First Time Away From Eustis

Reserve Unit, USARF School Team Up to Train Helicopter Mechanics

The first-ever helicopter maintenance (MOS 67U) course to be completed away from Fort Eustis, Va., graduated 10 Army Reservists from the 92nd Transportation Co. at Everett, Wash., recently.

The graduation ceremony marked the first time Reserve soldiers had been trained in the critical and complicated skill near their home base. Because mechanics literally hold the lives of the aircraft's crew in their hands, the course had always been conducted only at Fort Eustis. This required trainee mechanics to leave their homes and civilian jobs for an extended period.

Because the course can now be conducted closer to home, Reserve officials hope to encourage more soldiers to switch to the critical skill, knowing they can get the schooling without having to leave their families or sacrifice their jobs.

The graduation ceremony concluded a full year of textbook study and hands-on training for the new mechanics, and four years of planning for the unit. The class was conducted under the auspices of the 6236th U.S. Army Reserve Forces (USARF) School by a team of instructors from the 92nd Transportation Co., headed by CW02 Frank E. Hudler and W01 Jack H. Aring.

The success of this "trial" class will open the door for the course to be available through many of the 88 other USARF schools nationwide.

Constitutional Quotation

"I never discussed the Constitution very much, and I never made many speeches upon it, but I have done a good deal of fighting for it."

Lt. Gen. Philip Sheridan
Response to the Toast to the Army,
Constitution Centennial Celebration,
Philadelphia, Pa.
September 1887

LETTERS

Female Aviators

Sir:

I ran across an article on page 6 of the Fall 1986 issue, under "People," that upset me. The article talked about Cindy Fischer being the only female pilot who supported the Costa Abajo exercise last year.

That is incorrect. Myself and another female pilot with the 121st ARCOM, Birmingham, Ala., were the first two females to arrive in-country during this period. I know of several other females who were in Panama on this exercise between January and May 1986.

CWO2 Patricia Meek and I were in Panama in January 1986, the first increment of the exercise. We were in the utility lift section. I'm sure the medevac section worked hard and long, but I can prove by the hours flown that other female pilots worked just as hard, if not harder, during this exercise.

We are all proud to be pilots and to be a part of Costa Abajo, and deserve to be recognized for it.

CWO2 Melba J. Mahoney
Birmingham, Ala.

Indeed, five female aviators supported Operation Costa Abajo 86. In addition to Fischer, Mahoney and Meek, Capt. Lisa C. Bailey and CWO2 Tina Murphy served with the lift section performing such missions as courier runs, sling-loading of fuel bladders, hauling food and ice to the troops, and VIP shuttles.

All belonged to units of the 121st ARCOM, but Fischer's Kentucky-based unit left the 121st to join the new 125th ARCOM — that was the source of our confusion, for which we apologize.

By the way, the 121st's aviation staff officer, Maj. Dale Onstine, reports that a total of 154 aviators from his ARCOM flew 2,896 mission hours in support of Costa Abajo 86 in Panama.

Gray Area Retirees

Sir:

After having read the letter of Col. Edwin R. Scholl Jr. (Issue 1/87), I feel compelled to make a few comments. I happen to be a "Gray Area" retiree as well, and there are some inaccuracies in Col. Scholl's letter that should be corrected:

a. A Gray Area retiree continues to carry his Reserve (red) ID card. There is no need to issue another one. He is in the Retired Reserve. He is not "retired" (i.e., drawing pay, etc.). With the red ID card, however, he may do the following:

(1) He may use space-available travel. His eligibility goes down one notch (below the Ready Reserve) in priority, but it is available nevertheless.

(2) He may convert and continue his Serviceman's Group Life Insurance (SGLI).

(3) He may continue (or is eligible to apply for) membership in an officer or NCO club.

b. What he is not eligible for are commissary, PX and medical care. But then, neither is the Ready Reservist except for a specified number of days based on training.

In short, except for those items the Gray Area retiree is no different from any other Reservist in terms of benefits. As for pay and medical care, these always generate much heat about the rights and wrongs about immediately receiving or waiting until age 60.

I see nothing wrong with waiting. The ones entitled to immediate benefits put in 20 years of active duty. The rest of us, no matter how devoted, dedicated or deprived, had a civilian career. That is why, although I have more than 33 years of active and non-active duty service, I think fair is fair. Certainly, I would like immediate benefits if eligible, but as I have said, fair is fair.

John Lee
Col., USARGAR*
Alexandria, Va.

* U.S. Army Reserve Gray Area Retiree.

Incapacitation Pay

Sir:

It can be safely assumed that most Army Reservists depend on their civilian employment as their primary means of support, and not their monthly Reserve check. What happens if you are legitimately injured during a military exercise and cannot perform your civilian job? The Army provides nothing, and indeed cares not whether you can work.

In all fairness, there is a provision in the regulations known as Incapacitation Pay, which places you on full military pay and allowances for a period of time according to your rank and time in service. However, you are eligible for these benefits only if you cannot perform your military occupational specialty. Your civilian job means nothing.

As the system stands, men who legitimately need "Incap Pay" are often ruled ineligible and men who can still work are sometimes judged eligible. The regulations are, at best, arbitrary. I am acutely aware of the inequities of the regulations because I have fallen victim to them.

Everyone in the Army Reserve is a potential victim to these outrageous regulations. If anyone has a question concerning the present system of "Incap Pay," I suggest that they contact their unit technician or company commander.

SSgt. William Wescott
Hampden-Sydney, Va.

According to a representative of the Military Compensation Branch of the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel (ODCSPER), Department of the Army, "It is true that in the past the Army could provide no compensation for loss of civilian income. However, it is not true that the Army does not care.

"Since the problems were not with regulatory provisions, but rather with law, the Army has been working for the past four years developing legislation to amend the inequities of the existing system. Proposed changes to legislation were adopted in the FY87 Defense Authorization Bill and the Army regulation which will implement these changes is now under development.

The new Incapacitation Pay rules will apply only to soldiers who are injured or taken ill after Nov. 14, 1986. The impetus behind the changes was to ensure fairness and equity to the Reserve soldier and his family. Since the new system will take into consideration both the civilian and military duty, the soldier can now be duly compensated for loss of military or civilian income.

Your advice to contact the unit technician or commander in the event of injury or illness during training is sound. Unit members should do the

following if injured or taken ill during training:

(1) Report the injury or illness to your commander, first sergeant or supervisor.

(2) Seek prompt medical attention through your unit.

(3) Request that a line-of-duty investigation be initiated by the unit immediately.

IRR soldiers should work with ARPERCEN's Surgeon's Office to accomplish the same steps.

Airline Discount

Sir:

According to the "First Issue of 1987," *Army Reserve Magazine*, USAir is giving discount rates for travel to drill. I called USAir and talked to one of their supervisors. According to them, the only military personnel who can fly at military rates are those holding green ID cards.

Request information about this situation.

Capt. Joseph W. Fischer
Louisville, Ky.

Jeanie Bell of the Military Transportation Management Command (MTMC), the Army's contact with commercial passenger carriers such as USAir, says your problem is not unique, and that the Army is asking carriers to make sure their people are informed.

If your USAir representative is unfamiliar with the rate for Reservists travelling to or from drill, refer them to "Bound Tariff Rule 8425."

Taxing Question

Sir:

I am a chaplain in the 347th General Hospital, Sunnyvale, Calif. I have served in this unit since September 1981. I live more than 50 miles from the Sunnyvale Reserve Center, so I drive to a relative's home in San Jose the night before drill and do not go home until the weekend drill is over on Sunday afternoon at 1600 hrs.

I recently completed an audit of my 1985 income tax return. In that return, I claimed my mileage from home to reserve center and return as expenses allowable under out-of-pocket expense and travel for a second job. My auditor claimed that I must submit to him written confirmation from Joint Travel Regulations that Reservists are not entitled to mileage and meals reimbursement for travel to IDT drills. If the Army Reserve does not pay Reservists for mileage to and from drill meetings, then the auditor will allow my deductions.

In my 15 years as a Reservist, I know of no Reservist who is paid for travel to and from drills, unless placed on an active duty status of a man-day space status.

Would you please send me any information about Reservists' rights to claim mileage and meals for attendance at regularly scheduled Reserve meetings?

Chap. (Maj.) Charles D. Witmer
Santa Maria, Calif.

The section of the Joint Travel Regulations which discusses travel of Reservists is Chapter 6, Part A. Specifically, Paragraph M6001 states that a Reservist "is not entitled to travel or transportation allowances for any inactive duty training at the city or town in which the headquarters of his Reserve component unit is located, including travel between his home and the headquarters of his Reserve unit, attendance at weekly drills, or duty in lieu of weekly drills."

You are correct in your understanding of the deductability of unreimbursed expenses incurred in traveling to or from drill when your unit is located a "considerable distance" from your home or civilian workplace. The references are Treasury Regulations 118, Section 39.23, and Revenue Ruling 55-109.

Incidentally, the recent changes in the tax law, effective with the 1987 tax year, will reduce the ability of Reservists to deduct these expenses. See a related story on page 7 of this magazine for more information.

Aviator's Knife

Sir:

This command received an inquiry about a photo on page 6 of the Fall 1986 *Army Reserve Magazine*, captioned "Fischer to the rescue in flight gear." The submitter inquired about how the hunting knife was positioned and secured in pilot Fischer's survival vest.

Army Technical Manual (TM) 55-8465-215-10 is being revised to TM 55-1680-351-10. The revision will illustrate the proper position of the hunting knife; it will show the blade pointing down.

TM 55-1680-317-23 & P, page 2-86 (Change 1), paragraph 2-18(m)4 gives the proper guidance for the correct installation and securing procedures for the hunting knife. This TM is also being revised to add the statement that the hunting knife should be positioned perpendicular with the blade shown pointing down.

The correct positioning of the hunting knife is important. If an accident were to occur with the knife blade pointing in the incorrect position, the air crew member wearing it incorrectly could become seriously injured. This type of knife was designed to allow gravity to aid in securing the knife in the sheath when in the correct position.

With concise, specific details and illustrations in the two TM's, any future misrepresentations of how the knife should be properly positioned and secured will be alleviated.

Robert J. King
Chief, Propulsion/Support Equipment Section
Aviation Systems Command
St. Louis, Mo.

Constitutional Quotation

"Our Constitution is in actual operation; everything appears to promise that it will last; but in this world nothing is certain but death and taxes."

Benjamin Franklin
Nov. 13, 1789

Dupont Plaza hero: Flores with fire truck U.S. Army photo by Eddie Serrano

Sp4 **Luis E. Flores** never thought of being a hero. It just turned out that way for the Puerto Rican Reservist, a cook with the 429th AG Co. He was on duty last Dec. 31 as a fireman and mechanic for the Isla Grande Fire Department in San Juan when the alarm sounded. Flores was one of the first firemen to arrive at the blazing Dupont Plaza Hotel. He spent the next 17 hours at the scene, much of it inside the smoke-filled hotel or on the roof helping evacuate people by helicopter.

"Tacs" Maliner and Cagle at Camp Bullis: Is there a medic in the house? U.S. Army photo

Husband-and-wife "tacs" at an Army school? Why not, say USAR Capt. **Beverly Maliner** and her husband, active duty 1st Lt. **Gary Cagle**. Maliner's a physician with the 50th General Hospital in Seattle, Wash., while Cagle is a medical platoon leader with the 9th Infantry Div. at nearby Fort Lewis. They were both tactical officers at the Combat Casualty Care Course at Camp Bullis, Texas.

Like most major Army Reserve commands, the 300th Military Police Command selects its best people from among its 29 company-sized units to be soldiers of the year, but this year something strange happened. All three top troops — Reserve soldier, active duty soldier and NCO — are from the same company, the 357th MP Co. in Saginaw, Mich. They are SP4 **George G. Preston**, SSgt. **William Wolverton** and SFC **Gary E. Demand**. Demand went all the way — he was also named Fourth Army's USAR NCO of the Year.

Two active component sergeants supporting the Army Reserve have been honored by the Selective Service System. That takes some explanation: **Jose Cotto Jr.** and **Steven R. Sellers** work at ARPERCEN in St. Louis handling all administrative work for the Reserve's most far-flung "unit" — the several hundred officers nationwide who are assigned to support the system that would run the draft if needed. They are the first active duty soldiers to receive the Selective Service Meritorious Service Award.

Cotto and Sellers: Greetings from the draft board.

Every Reservist has a good use for that USAR paycheck, but Maj. **Michael Bryan** earmarks the proceeds from his IMA tours at Fort Huachuca, Ariz., for something really special. He's building a herd of American bison on his 320-acre spread near Denver, Colo. He started with a pair of yearlings, and hopes to build up to 20 or 25 head. They are hardy and easy to take care of, he says, but a strong fence is essential.

Hoffman with Verdienstkreuz.

Photo by Gene Foley

Soldiers stationed in Europe hear a lot about German-American friendship, but it's important stateside, too. Reserve CWO2 **Gunther H. Hoffman** of the 104th Div. (Tng.) thinks so; he's worked so hard at encouraging it that the West German government awarded him the Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit, First Class. The 20-year Reservist was born in Germany and is honorary German consul in Portland, Ore.

Capt. **Casey A. Carver**, commander of the 414th Military Police Co., Irvine, Calif., has been named the Outstanding Army Reserve Junior Officer by the Reserve Officers Association. The award was made at the ROA Mid-Winter Conference in Washington, D.C. Carver is a jail supervisor for the Long Beach Police Dept.

Carver with ROA honors.

Photo courtesy ROA

The Army Commendation Medal for heroism has been presented to Sp4 **Robert Davis**, a member of the 377th MP Co., Cincinnati, Ohio. Davis was with a convoy on a remote mountain road in Honduras during Exercise Blazing Trails 87 when a truck overturned on a curve and landed on its top, crushing and trapping two soldiers inside. The MP built a makeshift rig using load chains so that another truck could lift the overturned truck; he then crawled under the wreck and brought out the injured soldiers.

Robert Davis: Lifesaver.

Buczkowski: Top Drill Sergeant.

The Army Reserve's Drill Sergeant of the Year is SFC **Jeffrey Buczkowski**, 1st Bn., 2nd Engineer Bde., 98th Div. (Tng.), Buffalo, N.Y. He was presented the Ralph Haines Award and the Meritorious Service Medal by Gen. Carl Vuono, commander of the Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC), at a ceremony at Fort Monroe, Va. in April. A retail store manager from Cheektowaga, N.Y., Buczkowski served on active duty as a Ranger.

Runner-up was SFC **Douglas E. Demuth**, Co. F, 1st Bn., 318th Regiment (Tng.), Charlottesville, Va.

Louisianans know the Army Reserve cares — they saw members of the 4013rd U.S. Army Garrison of Bossier City on TV to prove it. A contingent led by Chaplain (Maj.) **Johnnie Dickson** visited a telethon with boxes of canned goods and a generous cash contribution.

Capt. **Joachim Palm**, 426th Civil Affairs Co., did double duty during a recent Army Reserve exercise at Camp Sendai, Japan. The Riverside, Calif., policeman took time to convey the greetings of his hometown's mayor to the mayor of Sendai City, Japan. The two municipalities are sister cities.

Reserve Drivers Can Now Renew Military Credentials

By Friederike K. Kraus

For the first time, there is a systematic way for IRR and IMA soldiers to update their military driving documents so that they may serve as Army drivers.

Through the joint effort of the active component's 1st Corps Support Command (COSCOM) at Fort Bragg, N.C., and ARPERCEN, 35 members of the IRR and IMA were issued military driver's licenses and related driving documents after completing a two-week driver's course at Fort Bragg in February.

Sgt. Frederick L. Sigler, an IRR soldier from Sumter, S.C., checks the oil on an M915 tractor during the 1st COSCOM's course for Reserve drivers at Fort Bragg, N.C.

U.S. Army Photo by Friederike Kraus

The collaboration between 1st COSCOM and ARPERCEN solved an ongoing problem, according to SGM Cecile R. Fortier, division sergeant major, Enlisted Combat Support Division, ARPERCEN.

In the past, requests by active component units and installations for Reserve drivers could not be met because IRR and IMA soldiers possessed expired military driver's licenses or their qualifications were unrecorded. "Without the proper documentation we can't send soldiers to fulfill such requests," Fortier said.

The 1st COSCOM volunteered to fill ARPERCEN'S driver-training void by providing the two-week driver's course at its 7th Transportation (TC) Bn. driver's academy.

After graduating from the course, each of the 35 IRR and IMA soldiers received a military driver's license (SF 46), a defensive driving card and a DA Form 348, which records those vehicles that individual is qualified to operate.

"This is the perfect example of the Total Force policy: The reserve components working with the active component for the same ultimate goal — mobilization readiness," Fortier said. "As a result of 1st COSCOM's efforts, mobilization assets in the transportation corps have been increased."

"This is the first chance I've had to update my license," said PFC Paul A. Magsig, an IMA with the 46th Engineer Bn., Fort Rucker, Ala. Magsig, a motor transport operator, said that in previous commitments he had been unable to work as a driver because he lacked the proper documentation. "I rode shotgun as the driver's assistant. I volunteered for this course so I could get my military driver's license back. From now on, I'll be able to drive."

The week after course completion, the reserve soldiers worked in the motor pools of the 126th and the 546th TC companies.

Two more courses for reserve drivers are scheduled this year.

From the IG:

Hints for Promotion

By Col. R. L. Williams
ARPERCEN Inspector General

Many Inspector General Action Requests received from Reserve soldiers concern promotions. Many soldiers cannot understand, if they have a really good record, why they were not promoted.

The ARPERCEN Inspector General frequently finds, upon looking into the issue, that the soldier's record was in fact very good, but that competition was extremely strong or the number of applicants far exceeded the available positions.

There is **no secret information** passed to the promotion board. The soldier knows exactly what the board will see and has an opportunity to ensure it is all up to date.

There are four basic items which the board has before it:

- The DA Form 2-1, Official Military Personnel File (OMPF), specifically, performance evaluation reports.
- Personnel Qualification Record or Officer Record Brief (ORB).
- For officers, a current full-length photograph.
- A letter from the soldier to the president of the board (if applicable).

It is the responsibility of the Promotion Directorate, a MILPERCEN agency located at ARPERCEN, to put the Promotion Consideration File (commonly known as the "promotion packet") together for presentation to the board, but this is a shared responsibility. The Reservist must participate as well. If he has not helped to maintain his file over the years, it will be very difficult for the Promotions Directorate to prepare it for presentation in the best possible light.

All Reservists are provided a copy of their OMPF before a board convenes. They should assist in getting it up to date if it is incomplete. Obviously, the soldier must take the responsibility for his or her own photograph. It is important that this is done. The unit technician will ensure an audited DA 2-1 gets sent to the board for the unit soldier, while the career managers will take care of this requirement for the IRR, IMA and AGR soldiers.

Writing to the Board

If a soldier chooses to correspond with the president of the board, the letter should be concise and grammatically correct. A poorly written letter may actually hinder the chances for promotion.

It is best to write a letter only when the issue is pertinent to the packet. For example, if the packet reflects no participation in the last 2-3 years, a letter to the board can cite any extenuating circumstances preventing participation and reiterate the desire for future participation.

If your weight situation is not entirely obvious, a maximum allowable weight statement should be mailed with the letter.

"Fully" or "Best" Qualified

Two types of promotion boards exist: "Fully qualified" and "best qualified." A soldier's rank and the needs of the service determine how he is boarded. Generally, lieutenant colonels and senior non-commissioned officers are boarded under the "best qualified" criteria.

Reasons for non-selection by a "fully qualified" board are pretty obvious: Incomplete education, inactivity, overweight and poor performance. For a "best qualified" board, where selection rates are generally very low, the reasons for non-selection are much more subtle. The board does not report its reason(s) for non-selection (except for "educationally not qualfied") and, therefore, it is most often impossible to tell a soldier exactly why he or she was non-selected.

Every soldier should know when he or she is approaching promotion eligibility. It is necessary to know what documents are needed and to ensure that they are in the OMPF. This gives the service member the best possible chance for advancement.

What is ARPERCEN?

The U.S. Army Reserve Personnel Center (ARPERCEN) is a field operating agency of the Chief, Army Reserve. It performs a wide variety of missions on behalf of Army Reservists, particularly Individual Ready Reservists (IRR), Individual Mobilization Augmentees (IMA) and Active Guard/Reserve (AGR) soldiers.

Correspondence to ARPERCEN should be addressed to:

Commander, ARPERCEN
Attn.: DARP-_____*
9700 Page Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63132-5200

***If you do not know the correct "Attention" symbol, omit the attention line.**

When requesting assistance from ARPERCEN, be sure to include your social security number and sign your letter.

Officer School Applications Due

Army Reserve officers in the grades of captain through colonel should have recently received a letter from ARPERCEN announcing professional development education opportunities during 1988 and 1989 for which they may apply.

According to ARPERCEN officials, most Reserve officers not on extended active duty should have received their letters by mid-May. Included are officers who belong to Reserve units as well as IRR, IMA and AGR officers.

Reserve officers who have not received the letter should contact their Personnel Management Officer at ARPERCEN.

The letter announces opportunities to attend 10 resident courses, including Command and General Staff Officer Course, Armed Forces Staff College, Logistics Executive Development Course and the senior service colleges, as well as the Army War College Corresponding Studies Course.

The letter also outlines application procedures. Deadline for applications is June 15. Selection will be made by a board of officers scheduled to convene in August.

COVER STORY

A Day At "Big Bear"

By Sgt. Vonny Rohloff

This is the city — a tent city — of Oso Grande, Honduras. It is known in English as Big Bear. It's January 1987, the dry season in the central Honduran mountains.

Exercise Blazing Trails 87 is in full swing with 600-plus U.S. Army Reserve, National Guard and active component soldiers doing their jobs. The mission: Build a farm-to-market road over the 5.5 kilometers between Yoro and Jocon.

PICK AND SHOVEL — As these Reservists will tell you, all Army Engineer work isn't accomplished with heavy equipment. Photo by John Pinderhughes

It's 0500. Stars are beginning to fade in the sky as dawn approaches. Sleeping bags unzip, bare feet hit the wooden floor of the general purpose medium tents and soldiers rub the sleep from their eyes. The day begins.

Smells of breakfast waft from the mess hall. Dressed in BDU's or jungle fatigues, cap and black boots, men and women follow the scent. Breakfast is hot and nourishing, a standard fare of eggs (sometimes powdered, sometimes fresh), meat, potatoes or grits, toast, boxed cereal, fruit or juice and coffee or other beverage.

MRE's (Meals, Ready-to-Eat) handed out the previous evening suffice for the mid-day meal. Supper is hot. Meals are prepared by 33 people who rotate shifts every other day. The camp is considered a field exercise so B rations (dehydrated food) are common. Plump pink shrimp appear magically when reconstituted with water. White flakes turn into fluffy mashed potatoes.

The dining area, a wood-covered, open-sided structure, is designed for multiple functions. Fifty-six picnic tables flank each side of the central serving and cooking area. The room also offers space for meetings, career counseling, writing and conferences. It even serves as a chapel for Sunday morning church services. It is the only wood-covered structure in the camp — all the others are tents.

Beverages — coffee, iced tea, Kool-Aid, ice water — are available nearly around the clock. At noon a big pot of hot water is set out for heating MREs. A bottle of anti-malaria pills stands by the sign-in sheets.

Off to Work

It's 0700. Out on the job site, eight kilometers from the camp, the road building progresses. When the new road is completed, it will help Honduran farmers bring produce to market. This will increase the average $320 per capita yearly income, improving their standard of living.

The road winds up, down and around the mountains. Red clay and rock make up the roadbed.

Besides the humanitarian aspect of the road for the Hondurans, the major reason for Blazing Trails is to provide the engineers and support troops with realistic, purposeful training — training they simply cannot get in the United States.

Skillful engineers push onward with the road. Rock is blasted from the mountainside with a quarter-pound of explosives set every six feet.

Culverts are placed in the valleys. They will keep the road in place when rain rushes down the mountain.

The grade is built up with bulldozers, compactors and scrapers. The machines push the soil into a firm base and press it down hard enough to make it last. Gravel is put on as the finishing touch — the frosting on the cake.

Meanwhile, back at camp, life goes on. The medical treatment facility is open for business. Doctors, nurses and medics train while they treat.

They set a few broken bones, wrap sprains, remove slivers and prescribe cold medications. A new medic observes, then receives instructions for on-the-job training.

Those training here for two weeks mostly have come from the cold midwest U.S. winter. The change in climate from below zero temperatures to warm tropical days makes the soldiers more susceptible to colds — more so than anticipated. So, Dr. Robert Blok has had to concoct his own cough syrup.

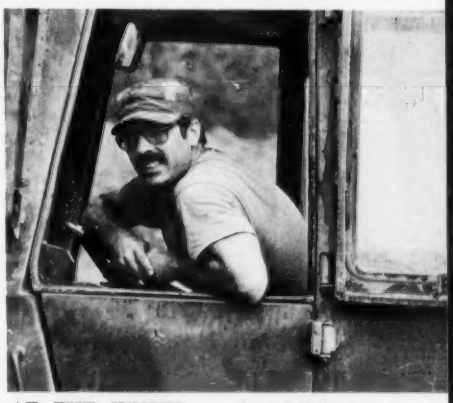
In addition to treating soldiers, the facility opens its doors to Hondurans seeking medical help. Dr. Blok tells of a Honduran woman who walked 15 miles for treatment with her foot bleeding, cut to the bone by a machete. She left, patched up, grateful for U.S. soldiers and their aid.

It's 0900. The camp commander holds a meeting. Staff representatives from various camp areas report the status of their missions. They discuss what's happened and what's planned ahead. They talk about problems and solutions.

It's 1000. Over at the water purification site, SSgt. Karen Hon dispatches a 6,000-gallon tanker truck. The driver takes it into the mountains and fills it with water from a fast-flowing stream. Honduran women wash clothes in the same stream, families bathe in it, animals walk and drink in it. Americans purify it before it is used.

And so the day goes. Supply, utility engineers, personnel, postal, MPs, etc., perform the various functions needed to keep Oso Grande running smoothly.

During the afternoon, sounds of helicopter rotor blades fill the airfield.



AT THE WHEEL — Sgt. Michael Fortini, D Co., 863rd Engineer Bn., Kankakee, Ill.

Photo by John Pinderhughes

Big Bear is small, only 21 acres surrounded by mountains. Its size doesn't permit a runway large enough to accommodate fixed wing aircraft, so the helicopters serve as the only form of air transportation.

The next nearest camp is Palmerola, six hours away by road, 45 minutes by air.

Day is Done

At 1800, darkness begins to descend. This time of year, day and nights are nearly equal in length. Engineers return from the road building site, their day's work done.

As evening settles, volleyball, touch football, horseshoes and basketball games begin. Other soldiers play cards, read books or relax in their cots, perhaps thinking about home. The more than 100 tents which serve as home or office are supplied with electricity and wooden floors.

At 2000, men begin taking showers — women wait until 2130. It feels good to wash off the day's dirt.

In the sky, the stars are bright. The night air is cool and pleasant. Big Bear is quiet.

MPs make their nightly rounds, and some soldiers go to work the night shift.

Another day at Camp Oso Grande is done. One by one, the sleeping tents darken as the tired soldiers close the front flaps and switch off the light.

The Supporting Cast:

It Takes More Than Engineers To Build A Road

Blazing Trails 87 in Honduras was primarily a road-building exercise, but supporting the engineers and the operations at Camp Oso Grande were Reservists with virtually every non-combat skill the Army has to offer. Medics, aviators, firefighters, military policemen, administrators of every description — you name it and you could probably find it somewhere around Oso Grande.

The following stories, by public affairs specialists who also trained at Blazing Trails, tell what it takes to keep an operation like Blazing Trails going. Each individual whose name or picture appears here represents dozens of fellow Reservists on other shifts or other rotations. Each has a story to tell; these are only a few of them . . .

Dirty Little War Story

By Pvt.2 Ed Meier

When the soldiers of the 1001st arrived in Central America, the first thing they faced was the enemy — 2,300 of the dirtiest, low-down scoundrels ever seen in Central America.

The 1001st could only muster a meager 16 to face this awesome foe, but they fought bravely. They arrived at Camp Oso Grande on Sunday, and by that Monday the enemy was defeated . . . and clean.

This is the war against dirt.

The 1001st is the Army Reserve field service company from Chillicothe, Ohio. Their job as the unsung heroes of the Army may seem somewhat humdrum; they run the bakery, the showers and laundry sections.

The "2,300 scoundrels" were 2,300 sets of dirty fatigues that had to be washed the first day they arrived in Oso Grande for Blazing Trails 87.

"We don't get a lot of recognition for what we do," admitted Sgt. Robert J. Gallagher, who as a civilian is a hospital custodian in Chillicothe. "But without clean bodies and clean uniforms, life would be a lot harder here, to say the least."

WATER-HAULER — Eager Honduran children help Sp4 Braulin Troche, 108th Support Bn., Chicago, set up hoses from his water tanker. Photo by Sgt. Dave Olsen

Heat and Dust

The 1001st persevered in spite of the equipment failures that plagued them because of the extreme temperatures — hot during the day and cold at night — and the swirling dust. "We had a lot of problems even getting water to the camp from a nearby river because our trucks kept breaking down," said SSgt. Karen Hon, a member of the staff here for the six-month duration of the exercise. She said the problem was brought under control. "We've managed to adapt most of our equipment to the conditions with improved maintenance."

The bakery has also been improved. "When we first got here, the products coming out of the bakery looked and tasted like hockey pucks," half-joked Sgt. Paula Parrish, Piketon, Ohio. "But nowadays we're cranking out hot biscuits for breakfast." She added that the bakery has worked around-the-clock to produce baked goods for dinner as well.

"I've got a fine bunch of soldiers here," stated SSgt. John Mayfield of Chillicothe, the detachment's platoon sergeant. "Right now, we only have one laundry unit working, which means we have to put in extra hours. But my people don't mind, they still get the job done."

MP's Provide Security

By Capt. John R. Kachenmeister

"Security alert!"

The shout of the radio operator into the security alert team's tent roused the military policemen from a restless doze, and sent them scurrying for rifles, helmets and the tent opening.

"Intrusion at the ammunition supply point, number of intruders and intentions unknown," shouted squad leader SSgt. Martha Messina over the noisy scramble.

It was only at the first checkpoint that an evaluator advised the MP's that the alert was a drill, and that weapons could be unloaded for safety.

The team — six MP's from Cincinnati's 377th Military Police Co. — still moved quickly and precisely, each three-soldier team covering the other while they ran from one position to another.

"We're on a real security mission," Messina explained. "Anytime Americans are on foreign soil for military exercises the possibility for problems exists."

Messina emphasized that no specific threat had been detected, but said continuous alerts and drills were held to keep the MP's ready.

"This is my first annual training period since I finished basic training," said Pvt.2 April Frese of Forest Park, Ohio. "I didn't know what to expect at first, but I like it here now — the training is good."

Sgt. David Dotson, a Purdue University student from Lawrenceburg, Ind., agreed that the training was good, but added that the hours are long. "We work nights, and have half of the day on security alert standby — our sleep is hit-and-miss."

"We not only guard the base camp, but secure the engineer worksite, escort convoys and protect visiting dignitaries," said Messina. "We work closely with the Honduran soldiers pulling security with us, and that's been a great experience, too."

FIXING WHAT BREAKS — Members of the 863rd Engineer Co., Fort Sheridan, Ill., work on an engine part at Oso Grande: (from left) Sp4 Edward Norlander, Sp4 Alan Stepp and Pvt.2 Solomon Williams Jr.

Photo by John Pinderhughes

SECURITY — Team of U.S. and Honduran Army military police at a security point. They are, from the left, an unidentified Honduran MP; Sp4 Angel Santiago, 755th MP Co. (Puerto Rico National Guard); Reservists PFC David Hoffman and Cpl. Tammie Seymour, 428th MP Co., Niles, Mich.; unidentified Honduran; Cpl. Patricia Secrest and Sgt. Howard Kingsley, both of the 428th.

Photo by John Pinderhughes

BORING WORK — Sp4 Kenneth Davis (left) and Sp4 Chris Pullins, 983rd Engineer Bn., Lima, Ohio, drills holes for explosives on the roadbed.

Photo by Capt. Steve Lambert

Blazing Trails Medics Make a Difference

By Sgt. Dave Olsen

Army Reserve medics on duty at Blazing Trails 87 are not only getting top-flight training but are also making a difference in the lives of the residents of central Honduras.

"This is probably the best training opportunity I've had since joining the Reserve," said Sgt. Michael G. McGaughey, a dental specialist from Waukegan, Ill. "To train we need to see real patients, and that's what we do here."

McGaughey and others in the medical team provide routine and emergency medical care to some 800 troops at Camp Oso Grande. The medical unit is staffed with physicians, dentists, nurses and various technical support personnel. Mobile service is provided by helicopter and ambulance vehicles.

The medical and dental staff conducts a sick call between 0700 and 1000 for U.S. and Honduran troops. At 1000 they load an ambulance and move to Camp Oso Grande's front gate. From 1000 until as late as 1600, the medical clinic holds general health and welfare screenings for Honduran citizens who wait at the gate.

"This is my first field-type training," commented Maj. Mary Licking, a dentist with the group. "Our unit is a garrison unit so it is different than we're used to. Normally I would take annual training at Fort Bliss in an air-conditioned office."

Medical Readiness Training

In addition to routine medical duties, the team conducts what are called medical-readiness training exercises (MEDRETE's). This entails loading field medical equipment and personnel, moving to a remote location and establishing a treatment point.

Honduran officials help the medical team pinpoint a remote village that would benefit from the service. The team will then move into the area, screen patients and provide the needed and desired services.

"Citizen-soldiers are interested, hard-working and happy to be here," noted McGaughey, who had four years of active duty before joining the Army Reserve five years ago. "I feel sorry for the troops that can't be involved in this training."

Hondurans living in the remote mountain villages seldom have an opportunity to receive medical care. To them, The MEDRETE's are highly valued. The medical team reported that Hondurans have traveled as far as 20 miles from remote villages to a medical treatment point.

To the Reservists, the training is irreplaceable and appreciated. "Medical-wise, it is excellent," said the chief medical officer, Lt. Col. Wayne L. Tucker. "I regret I could not bring my own unit. This is an ideal setting."

Wayne Tucker

By Sgt. Dave Olsen

A one-time rodeo cowboy from Grand Junction, Colo., is continuing a life of humanitarian service that he started during the Korean Conflict.

Lt. Col. Wayne L. Tucker is the chief medical officer at Camp Oso Grande. He coordinates medical aid to the troops as well as to Honduran citizens. Under Tucker's direction, dental and medical care are given to virtually any Honduran who requests and needs the service. The medics conduct training exercises in remote villages in the mountainous areas of Honduras. At times, the villages are only accessible by helicopter.

Tucker was a rodeo bareback bronc rider as a teenager. His stepfather was once the world champion saddle bronc rider. The family ranch was at Hotchkiss, Colo., not far from Grand Junction.

Tucker served in World War II and was called to action again as a staff sergeant with a medical unit during the Korean Conflict. When Tucker's medical facility was overrun by the enemy, he chose to stay behind with 20 wounded U.S. soldiers in his care. They were captured. The patients were executed and Tucker became a prisoner of war.

"I spent time in 18 different prisoner camps during my eight months in captivity," Tucker recalled. "They would move us often, sometimes in the night, in our underwear. They would put a rope around our necks and lead us to a new camp. On the way, the Korean people would throw rocks at us."

Tucker said mental and physical abuse were common. If a prisoner were caught praying, it meant immediate execution, he noted.

Tucker and some 40 other POWs made a winter escape attempt. They divided into groups of about eight to make their break. Traveling by night,

MAKING IT BETTER — SSgt. Walter Campbell, 395th Combat Support Hospital, Gary, Ind., treats a Honduran girl's broken finger.

Photo by Pvt.2 Ed Meier

then resting and hiding by day, they headed for friendly lines.

Three of Tucker's eight-man group perished in the ordeal. Only five of the 40 — Tucker's own party — successfully made their escape. The ordeal took six weeks in freezing weather. The group lived by capturing a cat for food and eventually reached British commandos and safety.

"I weighed 88 lbs. when I arrived in Tokyo," recalled the normally 185-lb. Tucker.

Tucker's experiences in Korea helped the military develop procedures and training for U.S. troops in the event they were captured during a conflict. He wrote five chapters in the original military survival manual.

Tucker explained that Korea was the first encounter with psychological brainwashing for U.S. military personnel. "Something we learned from our POWs about brainwashing is that if the enemy can work doubts into the fiber of what you know, it is disastrous to your mind. The mental torture was rough."

When he finishes the Honduran tour, Tucker will return to his duties as chief medical officer at the Military Entrance Processing Station in Detroit, Mich.

DOCTOR AND NURSE — Lt. Col. Wayne L. Tucker, chief medical officer at Camp Oso Grande, with nurse 1st Lt. Trinette Bell and a patient.

Photo by John Pinderhughes

Jimmy Martinez

By SP4 Robert D. Dorroh

A Honduran woman is seated in front of the opening of the tent where prospective patients are processed for medical and dental care. On a sweltering March day, she holds a cloth over her mouth because she's just had five teeth pulled. The effects of novocaine render her speechless, but her dark eyes convey concern as Sgt. Jimmy S. Martinez emerges from the back of the tent gently cradling her daughter in his arms.

The woman reaches out for her daughter and Martinez lowers the child onto her lap. The mother darts a shy glance of acknowledgment at Martinez, then levels her eyes at her little girl who is now standing in front of her.

"She was trying to keep her little girl quiet, so I took the girl inside the tent to give her some candy," says

Martinez

Continued on Next Page

"AID AND COMFORT" — Sgt. Jimmy Martinez, 395th Combat Support Hospital, Gary, Ind., comforts a weeping little patient. Photo by Sp4 Robert D. Dorroh

Martinez

Continued from Previous Page

Martinez, a member of the 395th Combat Support Hospital, Chicago, Ill.

Besides tending to the scrapes, blisters, cuts and other minor ailments of U.S. soldiers and Hondurans, Martinez also serves as a translator at Camp Oso Grande. He translates English medical terminology into the local Spanish dialect for the Hondurans, and translates the ailments of the Hondurans into English medical terms to help the U.S. Army Reserve doctors and medics.

Martinez, a junior linguistics major at the University of Illinois, is an amiable, articulate man serving his 11th year in the U.S. Army Reserve. He disappears into the tent again, but reappears quickly holding a small Honduran boy by the hand.

The boy has a large bandage on his forehead. Martinez said he brought the boy out because the child was persistent about coming to the front of the tent, even while the doctor was trying to treat him.

The little boy approaches his big brother, who is seated on a bench. The older boy's feet are caked with dirt after a ten-mile walk with his little brother through the mountainous Honduran countryside to Camp Oso Grande.

The little brother holds a half-filled cola in his right hand that Martinez had given him. He hands his older brother the cola, and his brother gives him a warm hug in return.

"Oh, that's what he wanted to do," Martinez says, displaying a bright smile. "He wanted to share his cola with his brother !"

Best Facility Around

Martinez said that more Honduran people are coming here because the medical facilities are better equipped than in the hospital at Yoro, the nearest city to Camp Oso Grande.

"For example, they allow animals to go inside the emergency room there," Martinez said. "We have more medical supplies here than they have in their entire hospital."

Martinez said most of the Hondurans who come to Camp Oso Grande suffer fron intestinal disorders caused by the drinking water, poor personal hygiene and a poor diet. For example, he said many do not cook their pork enough and thus develop trichinosis, a condition that causes abdominal disorders, headaches and diarrhea. He said part of his job is to teach the citizens about proper personal-hygiene methods.

Martinez said he hears Honduran people making positive comments about the U.S. military's presence in their country.

"The building of the Yoro road and the humanitarian assistance provided by the U.S. military here has had a positive effect on the people," Martinez said. "I'm proud of our relationship with the local folks here."

He said clothing, food and medical assistance, together with the medical training exercises in the local countryside and villages, are good examples of U.S. humanitarian efforts in Honduras.

Though Martinez will soon return to the University of Illinois, the vivid images, experiences and memories of Honduras and its people will remain with him.

"I hope to come back to Camp Oso Grande next year if I can," Martinez said.

SICK CALL — Blazing Trails medics set up for a session with local Honduran mothers and children.

Reservists, Guardsmen Extend Helping Hand to Hondurans

By Sgt. Dave Olsen

A helping hand or a gentle smile can help lift a soldier's spirits as he completes work on a dusty road thousands of miles from home and loved ones.

In terms of material wealth, the citizens of Honduras may not be as wealthy as the Army Reservists and National Guardsmen building a road in north-central Honduras as part of Blazing Trails 87. But, they are wealthy in smiles and friendliness. This attitude has soldiers looking for ways to repay the kindness.

According to SP4 Peter Davis, a chaplain's assistant at Palmerola Air Base in Central Honduras, Reservists and Guardsmen participating in Blazing Trails 87 have been awakened to the humanitarian side of working with people.

The citizen-soldiers have organized food and clothing drives for the Honduran people who, despite their lack of material goods taken for granted in the United States, have kindness and good will to offer men and women far from home.

Davis said many of these food and clothing drives have been organized by Reservists after they have returned to their home states.

"About 65 percent of the time we spend here is in distributing food and clothing," said Davis, who is from Dayton, Ohio. "I'm trying to start a program where personnel stationed here will organize a drive in their parish when they return home."

Value is Relative

According to the chaplain's assistant, there have been a few obstacles to overcome in arranging for clothing shipments. Sometimes, the value of the used clothing was less than the shipping costs.

But Davis has an argument for still shipping the clothing. "You cannot put a price on the value of clothing when there is no clothing," he said.

According to Davis, food and clothing received by the chaplain's office are sorted. Winter clothing is separated for cooler, mountainous regions of Honduras. The Honduran armed forces coordinate distribution in conjunction with the various church missionaries, orphanages and legitimate service groups in the area.

The Army also sends a medical unit to remote villages. Doctors and staff spend hours traveling in trucks to provide services. They also report food and clothing needs and help with distribution.

Local citizens even collect scraps of wood and materials from construction at Palmerola Air Base for use as firewood in town.

Davis said one Army Reserve soldier commented that he was ashamed he had complained about eating canned military rations after realizing that some of the people he was near in Honduras would be happy just to have a meal.

Civil Affairs At Work

By Sgt. John Wagner

It was noon in the remote village of Chililenga, Honduras. SFC Morris Lara had gathered the children and parents of 16 families in front of the school house. Their tanned faces reflected joy upon seeing Lara — a contrast from the anxious looks of the soldiers he normally sees as an Army Reserve drill sergeant back home in Milwaukee.

Rather than barking orders, the Spanish-speaking Lara was on a humanitarian mission of aid. Lara is in charge, along with his Honduran counterparts, of distributing donations of clothing and school supplies to remote areas in north-central Honduras as a side effect of Blazing Trails. His face was familiar to the people in this village since he visited them two days earlier.

"I did a survey of the village, going house-to-house getting the names of deserving families," said Lara. "I work with the mayor or school teachers to get the names of families and ages of the children. In this village I worked with the schoolmaster to make sure the donations reach the children and their parents."

Then Lara packed boxes with clothing and goods to meet a particular family's needs, and now he had returned to distribute them. "Some large families get two boxes because they may have more children," he explained. Speaking Spanish has helped him gain a personal knowledge of the people and how they think.

Civil Affairs
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MASTER BLASTER — Sp4 Harry Yeater, 983rd Engineer Bn., Lima, Ohio, pours ammonium nitrate explosive into a blasting hole before adding detonator cord. Photo by Capt. Steven Lambert

Civil Affairs

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"They want our help but are very proud and want to do for themselves everything they can."

The father of four children volunteered for a 10-week tour in the civil affairs section of the Blazing Trails operation. "We are helping them, and they are helping all of us training here by opening our eyes to another way of life. They are a very strong people and I'll never be the same."

"LOOKY HERE — SSgt. Garry Lettman's watch proves fascinating to a Honduran girl at the clothing distribution center in Yoro, Honduras.

Photo by SSgt. Jerry Lane, Montana ARNG

BUST THAT ROCK — Crew from B Co., 983rd Engineer Bn., Lima, Ohio, make a molehill out of a mountain the hard way on the Blazing Trails roadbed.

Photo by Sp4 Landis McIntire

And Now, For An Encore . . .

Army Reservists to Help Repair Earthquake Damage in Ecuador

By Jim Haas

Stricken by two strong earthquakes which ripped through its northeastern mountains last March 5, the tiny South American nation of Ecuador called for help. Its economy, which depended on oil exports, was shattered; more than 1,000 had died; and much of the nation's road network was destroyed.

Following a plea by Ecuadorean President Leon Febres Cordero, the United States government dispatched elements of the Army and other services to help in the immediate rescue and clean-up efforts. In the longer term, units of the Army Reserve and the Army National Guard have been diverted from other, less critical, nation-building exercises in Central America to rebuild roads, which will further enable Ecuadorean engineers to repair the vital oil pipeline, more than 25 miles of which was destroyed by mud slides.

Open Roads

The training exercise, called *Abriendo Rutas*, or "Open Roads," is now under way, and will continue until October. Army Reserve participation is primarily by engineer and medical units, plus various supporting elements.

Reserve component personnel will rotate to the country in 14-17 day increments, as part of their annual training.

According to the Department of Defense, units deploying to Ecuador will work under the control of an engineer joint task force. The Ecuadorean Armed Forces will provide engineer support as well as security. A total of some 6,000 Reserve and Guard personnel are expected to participate in the exercise by the time it is completed.

Where Is Ecuador?

Perched along the northwest coastline of South America, between Columbia and Peru, Ecuador is the fourth-smallest nation on that continent, with a majority population of mixed Indian and Spanish (known as Mestizos), Indian, Spanish and a small African ethnic group, totaling some 9.6 million.

The tiny nation, which straddles the equator, enjoys a highly diversified geography ranging from a balmy coastal plain on the west, to two Andean mountain chains, to dense jungle in the east which contain the headwaters of the Amazon River. Climate is determined by the altitude rather than seasons. The capital city of Quito is located in the mountains at an altitude of 9,300 feet.

(See reference map IV)

MAKIN' TRACKS — Bulldozer treads mark the road builders' progress through the Honduran mountains.

Super-SMO

Some call him, sarcastically, a number cruncher or a bean counter. He is often praised one week and damned the next, depending on statistics over which he really has little control.

Others look upon him as the patron saint of lost causes — the one person soldiers turn to when it seems all other means have been exhausted or all avenues blocked by an uncaring bureaucracy.

The target of such contradictory attitudes? He is the Strength Management Officer, sometimes known as the "schmoo" because of the ever-present acronym, SMO. He can be found at the headquarters of every major Army Reserve command.

He and his sergeants make up the Office of Strength Management. Their missions are to monitor the personnel strength of their command, to keep their commanders informed about strength trends and to manage all of the programs and policies the Army has designed to keep soldiers in Army Reserve units.

Any SMO worth his weight in graph paper will admit that the success or failure of a unit's effort to retain soldiers rests squarely on the unit's leaders. Without good leadership a unit will invariably have poor training, poor organization and little concern for its soldiers. Good units have good leaders and high rates of retention. Bad units have the opposite. This is almost an immutable law and is the bottom line of strength management.

A Professional

How then, does the SMO contribute to his command's efforts to retain soldiers?

He and his NCO's do their job by being professionals, and the best way to describe it is with professional analogies.

Like a doctor or nurse, the SMO must have his finger on the pulse of his command. He, above all others, should be aware of the symptoms which indicate the direction the command personnel strength is likely to go in the near future. This requires constant attention to units. Consequently, the SMO and his sergeants are weekend nomads, traveling from unit to unit in an effort to assess each outfit's success or failure.

Like a judge, the SMO may find his office acting as the court of last resort for soldiers with problems they and their leaders have been unable to resolve. It is in this challenging arena that the SMO and his crew are often the unsung heroes.

They uphold the rights of soldiers by bringing issues and problems to the attention of the commander. They act as a clearing house for questions that leaders have been unable — or, sometimes, unwilling — to answer.

A good SMO knows that when a soldier comes to him it is usually because the soldier has exhausted all other means without success. Therefore, SMO's often find themselves addressing issues such as why a soldier wasn't paid or promoted or issued a uniform or why his hospital bills weren't paid or why his GI Bill check hasn't arrived or any number of other issues that, if left unresolved, may result in a congressional complaint or the loss of a dissatisfied soldier.

Finally, the SMO can be likened to a missionary, teaching the gospel of strength management to commanders, first sergeants and first-line leaders. Care and concern for soldiers, he tells them, are the keys to retention. Leaders who care for their soldiers are leaders who provide good training, insure their soldiers are paid on time and make certain that their soldiers receive the benefits promised them when they joined the Army Reserve.

Those benefits are the special province of the SMO, for it's his job to insure that unit leaders and their technicians are knowledgeable about the various monetary and educational assistance programs the Army provides.

Pushing for More

At the same time, the SMO must be in the vanguard of the effort to obtain additional benefits for soldiers, if they are needed. He supports measures to improve the quality of life for soldiers and their families.

Such major issues as PX and commissary privileges and additional life insurance, as well as such seemingly minor matters as encouraging the use of paper plates and cups and providing music in dining facilities are promoted by the SMO.

The SMO, in order to be effective, must be a self-starter who takes the initiative whenever the opportunity arises to promote the retention of soldiers. He must have a hide thick enough to withstand the slings and arrows of criticism when his command's strength declines.

He must also have the humility to admit that strength increases are due primarily to efforts of unit leaders. He must be tenacious about the promotion of strength management. At the same time, he must be patient and realize that results of successful retention programs aren't instantaneous and often appear months later.

If asked what he thinks of his job, a good SMO will tell you that his job is the most important and most rewarding job in the Army Reserve because, often, he is able to help soldiers. His reward, he will tell you, comes when a soldier he or his sergeants have helped comes to him and says, "thank-you."

(This article was a joint effort of Lt. Col. Charles Rockwell of OCAR's Personnel Division and two SMO's: Maj. Bruce Pittman, 123rd ARCOM, and Maj. Donald Zimmer, 103rd COSCOM.)

Constitutional Quotation

The Constitution "is an experiment, as all life is an experiment."

Oliver Wendell Holmes

Cruising to AT

By Capt. Terry Thrall

It's common knowledge that the shortest distance between two points is a straight line.

But, when your mission is to move more than 250 Army Reserve field artillerymen and 190 loaded trucks and trailers from Michigan-based reserve centers to AT at Fort McCoy, Wis., you've got a little problem with that straight-line theory — how do you *convoy* across Lake Michigan?

You hire a ship! That's what the 123rd ARCOM did last summer when two battalions of the 428th Field Artillery Brigade sailed from Ludington, Mich., to Kewaunee, Wis., on the ferry *City of Midland* in the largest military troop movement to occur on the Great Lakes since the wartime years of the 1940s.

Both battalions had performed AT at Fort McCoy many times. Always before, however, the convoys were routed via interstate highways around the southern tip of Lake Michigan and through the congested Chicago metropolitan area. Heavy traffic and frequent delays caused by tollway interchanges and highway construction added frustration to an already lengthy and numbing journey in hot, noisy, bone-jarring Army tactical vehicles.

This time the trip was different.

Members of the ferry crew help back a wrecker onto the ship's vehicle deck.

On The "City of Midland"

After road marches from their reserve centers in the Michigan cities of Lansing, Pontiac, Bay City, Bad Axe and Saginaw, soldiers of the 4th Bn., 20th Artillery, and 4th Bn., 38th Artillery, arrived with police escorts at the Michigan-Wisconsin Transportation Company's Ludington dock for the voyage to the Wisconsin port city of Kewaunee.

In cooperation with the ship's crew, the excited but apprehensive soldiers began the laborious process of loading their vehicles onto the vessel. With the ship's captain in charge, personally guiding vehicles as they rolled aboard, smaller vehicles were driven up the steep ramp to the upper deck while larger ones were backed into the cavernous hold.

Soon, all remaining military equipment, the soldiers and a few civilian vehicles and passengers were on board. Then, with a long blast of the ship's horn, the lines are released, the powerful engines roared to life, and the *City of Midland* steamed out of the harbor into Lake Michigan.

As the water churned in the wake behind them, the troops found ways to keep busy. Many just relaxed on the deck, some watched television or played video games, a few stopped for a bite to eat at the ship's snack bar. It was not your routine convoy.

In slightly less than four hours, the port of Kewaunee came into view and, soon after, the vessel backed to the dock. Within minutes, in a smooth procession punctuated by clouds of diesel exhaust smoke and the high-pitched whine of "deuce-and-a-half" turbochargers, the vehicles departed from the ship for a five-minute drive to the Kewaunee Reserve Center.

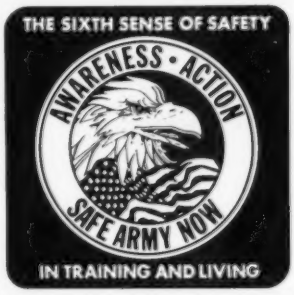
Travelers waiting to board the ferry for its return trip to Michigan and the townspeople of Kewaunee were amazed to see camouflaged vehicles and soldiers rumbling down the streets of the small and peaceful fishing village.

After reorganizing into convoy serials, the troops steered their vehicles onto the highway for the drive to Fort McCoy. Several hours later, after stops for meals and fuel, the convoys arrived safely to successfully complete this unique and creative mission.

Was the ferry trip worth the planning and effort? Unit leaders say it cut driving mileage and time by 50 percent and soldiers arrived at Fort McCoy with high morale, ready to train. Both units received favorable training evaluations and the 4/38 passed its nuclear Army Training and Evaluation Program (ARTEP).

Perhaps most significantly, ARCOM and brigade planners are getting ready for another ferry crossing for the two battalions on their way to annual training in June.

For AT '87, the Army Is Serious About Safety



In an effort to reduce accidents during annual training (AT), a program called SAFE-AT 87 has been implemented by officials of the U.S. Safety Center, Fort Rucker, Ala., in conjunction with Army Forces Command (FORSCOM) and the National Guard Bureau.

The safety program is designed to help commanders plan and safely conduct AT. "More than half of the accidents in the reserve components occur during annual training and can be prevented," noted Lt. Col. James R. Engelage, acting FORSCOM safety director. Last year the Reserve and Guard reported more than 500 accidents.

SAFE-AT 87 packets were sent in March to all Army Reserve commanders explaining their responsibility and how to accomplish unit missions safely by conducting operational activities with safety considerations. Engelage said the program focuses on the three phases of AT: Getting there, training and getting back home.

The SAFE-AT 87 program encourages commanders to integrate safety into the process used to develop all unit training programs. The commanders are taught to use a risk assessment process to measure various risk factors presented by a situation and make a judgment of what safety precautions are appropriate.

SAFE-AT 87 was developed because Army accident experiences show that, in the absence of command-defined parameters, individual soldiers decide for themselves what level of risk they will accept. To curtail unnecessary accidents, the program focuses attention on the level of the decision-maker corresponding to the level of the risk. The greater the risk, the more senior the final decision-maker will be.

Common Training Accidents

■ Here are some of the more common types of non-vehicular accidents which cause injuries during annual training and other field activity:

■ **Slips and Falls.** Accidents involving slips and falls may seem "ho-hum" but are a major cause of injuries—more than 500 in the last two years—and expenses in tactical training situations. Excessive haste, especially in bad weather or during times of limited visibility, is the main cause. Mounting and dismounting vehicles is a frequent slip-and-fall situation.

■ **Rappelling.** Late, lost or improper braking causes half of rappelling accidents. The errors usually result from too much speed. Proper use of and performance by belay personnel could greatly reduce rappelling accidents.

■ **Water Training.** The three errors most often responsible for water training accident fatalities are:

—Failure to follow procedures.

—Failure to check water depth and current.

—Overconfidence in the abilities of oneself or the team.

■ **Sleeping in the Field.** Over a recent 30-month period, 22 sleeping soldiers were run over by tactical vehicles and seven of them died. Proper selection of sleeping areas and proper procedure by vehicle operators in or near sleeping areas are essential. Some guidelines:

—Never sleep near a roadway.

—Never sleep in front of, behind or under vehicles.

—Sleeping areas should be designated by the commander where the least hazard is present.

—Establish perimeters and post walking guards who are trained to challenge vehicles and tell them it is a dismount area.

—Vehicles operators should use ground guides when moving through any area where troops may be present.

Constitutional Quotation

"There is nothing stable but Heaven and the Constitution."

James Buchanan
May 13, 1856

An Interview With The Chief, Army Reserve

On Dec. 1, 1986, Maj. Gen. William F. Ward Jr. became the sixth officer to hold the position of Chief, Army Reserve. As the nation's top Army Reservist, he serves full-time as a member of the Army Staff. He is the Army Chief of Staff's principal advisor on Reserve matters and is the appropriations director for all Army Reserve budget accounts.

Maj. Gen. Ward is a West Point graduate and a Korean War combat veteran. An Army Reservist since 1954, Maj. Gen. Ward served with Reserve tank and civil affairs units before joining the 77th Army Reserve Command as a staff officer in 1974. He commanded the 77th from February 1981 to November 1984. He then held a Reserve assignment as Assistant Deputy Commanding General for Reserve Activities of the U.S. Army Forces Command until assuming his new assignment.

His business career has included top management positions with major publishing and industrial firms. Most recently he has been president and chief executive officer of a property management and real estate investment firm in New York City.

What do you see as your greatest challenge as the new Chief Army Reserve?

There are a whole series of challenges which are interrelated, but if you put them together in a package, I think it's the requirement to be able to articulate the subtle and unique requirements of the Reserve on the Army staff.

As the appropriations director for training, construction and operations and maintenance monies for the Army Reserve, I am in a unique position to be able to input into programs that improve Reserve readiness. Mobilization plans, or any plan for training that involves the Total Army, must be coherent and sensible in how they impact on the Army Reserve. I am the Army Reserve proponent, if you will, on the Army staff.

How do you assess today's Army Reserve in terms of readiness?

In terms of my 30-odd years in the Reserve — 31-plus years as a Reserve officer following almost five years as a regular officer — I would say that the reserve components today are the most ready we have ever been. The missions placed upon the Reserve are larger, more complicated and more demanding than they have ever been and our ability to accomplish them is improving very rapidly.

In absolute terms, it's the most ready Army Reserve we've ever had. In terms relative to the mission, it is a good Reserve but not yet a great Reserve. We've got a number of things to do. I know there have been a lot of people who have been critics recently of the reliance upon the Reserve and the reserve components. I think as you look at the progress that's been made, you will come to the conclusion that the Reserves are competent to perform their missions.

There are some major shortfalls in medical equipment. There are some major shortfalls in medical personnel. There are important shortfalls in equipment on hand in the combat service support area. But, in terms of strength, we met our FY 1986 year-end target of just about 285,000 people. We met the AGR strength, and attained the IMA goals.

This year the goals are bold. They call for an increase of almost 10,000 people. I believe we're going to be able to make that. The Reserve is tops in terms of enthusiasm, dedication, commitment. Some Reservists have been in the Army as volunteers for a very long time, and their commitment to making the Army's total force work is, I think, very encouraging — it's very edifying, in fact.

You mentioned the word "strength." What would you say are the major strengths of today's Army Reserve?

I think its major strength is the Capstone program, with every unit in the Army Reserve oriented toward and targeting on fulfilling a role in a particular war plan. Units train toward realistic goals and realistic requirements, and therefore they can sharpen the focus of what they're doing based upon their most likely mobilization need.

Major General William F. Ward Jr.

Another great strength right now is the momentum we have toward making this the finest Reserve force in the entire world and certainly the finest in the history of the United States Army. That's a very subtle but a very major requirement.

I'll tell you why I feel this way. In 1950, I was a brand new second lieutenant when the Korean War began. The Army was terribly unprepared. Most of our units were so understrength that the total Army was, if lucky, at 50 percent strength. Of the Reserve soldiers who were called up in the fall of 1950 as individuals, almost none had worn a uniform in five years. They were in the Enlisted Reserve Corps; they didn't train, they didn't drill. They received a promotion when they got out of the Army at the end of World War II and that kept them in the reserve components.

Those people performed magnificently, bravely and with great dedication. They were called up, given a week or less to report, two weeks of training and were on their way to Korea and within four weeks some of them were becoming casualties. In the fall of 1950 and the winter and spring of 1951, they *were* Eighth Army, to a large extent.

Those people showed the spirit of "When we were needed we were there." That's the spirit that embodies the Army Reserve today.

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How important is overseas deployment training (ODT) to Army Reserve readiness and do you see the number of Reservists participating in the program increasing over the next few years?

First, I hope it increases because the ODT program is extremely important. It follows from the whole Capstone concept for placing units in a likely wartime environment — having a plan and training to that plan so the Army moves as far down the road toward mobilization as possible.

ODT is part of that requirement. It puts people training in areas of the world where there are great training opportunities, where they can do things that there is no way they can do at home.

For example, the environmental impact statements to build a road up here take three to four or five years to prepare; indeed, some of the challenges in construction just aren't doable. But the roads and bridges they are building down in Panama and Honduras are just superb professional training. Under those conditions they are stretched in terms of what they can do. There's none of the deadly dull training that some people used to attribute to hanging around the Reserve Center 20 years ago.

To which areas of the world will Army Reservists be deployed in the next few years?

We're doing ODT in almost every area where we have a role or mission — Europe, Latin America, Korea, the Far East. There have been people going ODT to the Central Command and the Middle East; in fact, at Bright Star last year of the 9,000 or so soldiers involved, my recollection is that around 3,500 to 4,000 were Reservists. They do much of the combat service support, the logistical work, in connection with many exercises. You couldn't even run those exercises without the Reserves.

Retention is a subject very close to you. How do you see improving retention over the next couple of years?

Well, retention is a complex area, but some of the solutions are not terribly complex. Most of the teams in the NFL have fantastic playbooks. You take a look at how they propose to run a particular play and it's very well documented. Where they may fall down is in the execution, and where we tend to fall down in Reserve retention is in the execution of our generally excellent retention plans.

Drills are very hectic for the chain of command. A young soldier comes in to his first drill; he's sent to a squad leader; that squad leader happens to be teaching a class that day so the soldier tends not to get assimilated into the unit very quickly. That trooper may be just coming off active duty and may have great visions of what a drill sergeant was able to do to him and for him, and he gets very frustrated — the soldier hasn't seen the squad leader the whole day, and he doesn't see him the next day because the squad leader is running the range or running some kind of a training involvement. By the end of the first weekend the trooper gets to see his squad leader for two minutes and the squad leader says, "Well, I'll see you next month, son."

That tends to be a poor introduction to the Reserve, and that kind of scenario unfortunately exists all over the country. Most of the senior leadership of the Reserve is very conscious of this, the NCO's are conscious of it. We're looking at some methods of making that squad leader more available to deal with that soldier or indeed having some kind of a specialized NCO in a company or a battalion who would provide that transitional interface — that sponsorship, if you will.

We have sponsorship and other programs but it's like the days the Redskins don't win — it's not because the plays aren't good; it's because there is somebody missing a block or not giving that extra second effort.

What are your goals and where

Reservists of the 786th Quartermaster Co. (Petroleum Supply), Provo, Utah, "hot fuel" a CH-47 Chinook during a field exercise in California.

Army Reserve Photo by Richard Lee

would you like to see the Army Reserve five years from now?

Some of my goals involve the thing I just spoke about — this retention issue. Some of my goals provide the kind of increased readiness which we require. Some of the things for that are moving along, in terms of more money for equipment, especially for the combat service support elements and particularly in the medical field. We're all working on that; the Congress has been listening, and I hope they will continue to listen even harder in a couple of areas as we continue to move up that ramp of readiness.

In a more subtle kind of way, I hope to continue what my predecessor has done in building the sense of professionalism among Reservists. I have a concept — which I know many of my active component counterparts understand — that you don't have to be a full-time soldier to work and think and be professional.

Professionalism is a method of thinking, it's a thought process, it's an internal disciplinary process that aims at being indeed the best you can be. To think that way requires an element of self-discipline in terms of learning more, developing more, being able to do those things that our country is going to require us to do.

Do you intend to establish any new directions for the Army Reserve in years to come?

The directions are, of course, set by the entire Army structure. I expect to be making recommendations that fit the subtlety of the Army Reserve. I've been in both components, and I think there are some subtle differences between the active component and the Reserve component, mostly tied to geography and to support structures and to things like the role of the family.

There are some minimal differences: When you're a tank crewman, you're a tank crewman; you have the same kind of responsibilities active or reserve. But you cannot change that soldier's domicile — he lives where he lives, and if it's too far to get to a Reserve Center, beyond the rule of reason, then he's not going to go to that center.

You can assign the soldier to the unit and he'll be a brave and courageous soldier when that unit mobilizes, but he will have not trained with that unit and unless we can find some ways to solve some of those geographical boundaries we just have to recognize the fact that geography and time are the major differences between a Reserve soldier and an active soldier.

You mentioned the difficulty for some Reservists getting time off to serve. Is employer support for Army Reservists what it should be and, if not, how do you think it can be improved?

Sgt. Carlos Rivas is a Pathfinder with the 5th Infantry Platoon, Fort Meade, Md.

Army photo by Sgt. Ed Bosanko

I don't think it's at all what it could be and this is something that I hope to have some impact upon as Chief, Army Reserve. There's a Presidential commission which works with the Secretary of Defense, called the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. Those employers who are members are very conscious of this requirement, but I'll just give you a small vignette.

In my civilian capacity I have been an investment banker, heavy in the real estate field and serving a number of foreign clients, including people from Switzerland. When they found out I was in the Reserve, they gave me some insights into the way their reserves operate.

Their reserve structure is an integral part of their business community. As businessmen, they are committed strongly to the reserve because it's a way to keep down the costs of a standing army and still to keep ready to deter aggression — and the Swiss haven't had a war in five or six centuries.

I would hope that the American businessman understands that support of the Reserve is tremendously important to him, not only economically in reducing his taxes but socially in the terms of the citizen-soldier involvement and support of our national aspirations, our goals, our Constitution and indeed in terms of providing that business a source of leaders.

We see leadership develop in young Reserve soldiers, who go back into the business community and use the things they learn in the military about how to present instruction, develop a sense of responsibility, sense of taking care of equipment — those are key leadership factors, which the employer can use.

There have been some studies done which show that most citizens view the Reservist as a real winner in the community. I think that the average businessman will find as he hires reserve component soldiers — male and female, Guard or Reserve, no matter what branch — the employer will find that he is picking up values from the military in terms of leadership and responsibility which he just can't get anyplace else. The Reserve provides people who know how to get things done and how to deal with people in a mature, effective and conscientious fashion.

The Army Reserve has taken on greater responsibility in our national defense than ever before. Do you see that trend increasing?

I see that trend increasing for one reason: Some of the pressures of the Gramm-Rudman legislation and the pressures of the national economic situation certainly indicate that we're not likely to get major growth in the active component. We have increasing requirements coming out of our national commitments; indeed, as we move toward a goal of nuclear disarmament in the post-Reykjavik days, we clearly raised the question that our

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conventional posture has got to be strong enough to deter conventional threats.

So I see very heavy increased responsibility in the reserve components.

Let's talk about the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR). How critical is the IRR to Army Reserve readiness and what role do you see for the screenings in the overall scheme of the Army Reserve?

Because of the geographical constraints I talked about, it's not likely that every soldier coming out of the active component will find a Reserve unit, or every Reservist who moves will be able to stay in the same unit or find a new one.

In addition, people now coming out of the active component are very upwardly mobile, they're strivers, and when they get out they may have a number of other things which will distract them from being active in a reserve component right away. College, forming a new business, starting a new family — these are all things that impact upon their time and it may end up causing them to be in the IRR for a period of time.

Many IRR soldiers are extraordinarily well trained. The statistics show that they have had more active component experience than the active component does. Well, that's not too surprising, when you realize the active includes a lot of people in their first enlistment.

There are many fine soldiers in the IRR — the vast bulk of them. They respond to the requirements of our nation; they responded very well to musters last year. The biggest reasons they are not in the TPU are geography, the inability to be in a unit where their MOS is a match, and competing demands on their time — job, school, and so on.

The IRR is a key part of our structure. Indeed, in the early days of the Korean War the Enlisted Reserve Corps, who were equivalent to the IRR, are the people who first saw combat. In the event of a major mobilization, it's going to take a matter of months before the outflow from the training base provides the number of soldiers you need to sustain readiness and to sustain units in combat.

PFC Tom Parrack, 372nd Military Police Co., Cumberland, Md., on an exercise.

Army photo by Sgt. Ed Bosanko

Remember, this country mobilized 14 months before World War II started. Had we not done that, the outcome would have been set back in time, with greater cost in casualties, territory and treasure. It is even conceivable that the Axis powers might have developed nuclear weapons before we did.

What value does the screening process have to the readiness of the IRR?

The screening process is designed with a view toward the mobility of the country and the fact that we don't see the people in the IRR very frequently, to try to bring them somewhat closer in terms of keeping up with their records, their training requirements, what they are doing, their health issues.

We're moving toward what the British have in an annual muster, but it's not quite that. We now have simply a mandatory screening, one day a year for which the IRR members are getting paid. The screening is at their convenience in the month of their birthday, at a recruiting station, so they're not far from home. It takes a fairly short time, in some cases less than an hour, to go through the whole process.

Thus far, it's going fairly well. We hope we can have a far better handle on where the people in the IRR are, what kind of training they would require, what kind of civilian skills they have picked up, and what we can do to make a more ready force.

What if any public misconceptions about the Army Reserve would you like to see changed?

The misconception that I would like most to see changed comes from the presence in the Reserve in the '60s and perhaps even the early '70s of a lot of draft-motivated folks. On balance, they were extremely bright, very clever and very quick to absorb training, but in the long run it created an element that said the Reserve was not a serious place for a soldier — it was a great place to avoid being a soldier.

The Reserve is a very serious place to be, with extremely serious responsibilities. Reservists make a great contribution to their country, and they are there because they are volunteers and they want to be there. They're not avoiding anything, except cutting themselves off from spending time with their own families. They are there because they know the country needs them and they know that readiness and preparedness are crucial.

Our very first mission is to deter war — to be so ready, and appear so ready, that nobody is going to threaten our vital national interests. The Reservists that I know, in all ranks, all ages, are very serious about that mission.

Winning Photos By A Reservist

The two photographs on this page, taken at REFORGER '86, were prize winners for Army Reserve Sgt. Jennifer Teeter in the 1987 Military Photographer of the Year competition. Teeter, an Individual Ready Reservist, was the only Army Reserve photographer to claim honors in this year's competition, which was won overall by an active duty Navy lensman.

"Mail Call" won first prize among 114 entries in the portrait/personality category of competition; "Front Line Protection" placed third in the same category.

Teeter, a newspaper photographer from Sarasota, Fla., attended REFORGER on an IRR tour of active duty for training.

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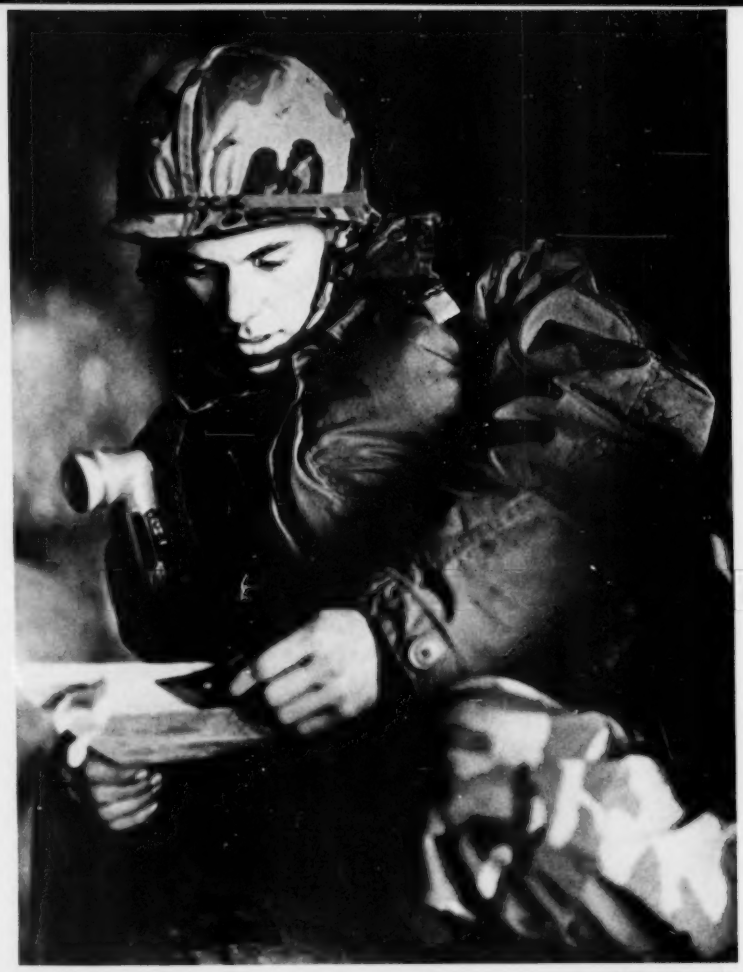

"Mail Call"

"Front Line Protection"

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